

Clerk to the Board

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street, 24th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

RE: Comment Letter- Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments: 7/26/2018

As a concerned citizen, I am writing in support of increasing in stream flows on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers, by the greatest feasible amount. The dewatering of these rivers is a political travesty, and an environmental tragedy. Your latest proposal to increase flows to 40% of unimpaired levels during the February to June time period would be a big improvement over current conditions. I would hope that the Board has adequate staff and mechanisms with which to monitor and enforce this decision.

Native anadromous fish populations have been decimated by decades of excessive water diversions, with significant ecological and economic impacts throughout the watersheds and beyond. "Super Critically Dry river conditions and declining fisheries indicate a failure to protect our Public Trust resources for all beneficial uses. The Board's 2010 "Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem" indicates that 60% unimpaired flows during the critical spring period are needed to protect fish and wildlife in the lower San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers. Therefore, a publically responsible action would be to target a seasonal flow regime of 60% to 80% of unimpaired flows.

The beneficial impacts of increasing these flows are tremendous for groundwater recharge, restoration of riparian and off channel habitat, recovery of fish passage and spawning, increasing water quality, recreational opportunities, countering salt intrusion of the Delta, etc. My life, and the lives of millions of other residents would be enhanced by healthier rivers in our region. The impacts on the water agencies and agricultural would be mostly symbolic, and at the level of inconveniences, rather than the existential threat that they project. People are adaptable, few more than Californians, but we cannot substitute or recreate ecosystems after extinction of keystone species like Salmon.

Please stand firm for Californians against the well connected, deep pocketed special interest groups. Restore healthy flows and ecosystem services to our essential waterways.

Sincerely, Clay Knopf, POB1088 TwainHarteCA95383-0088

From: clay knopf <clayk@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 3:48 PM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Subject: Comment Letter - Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments
Attachments: Comment Letter2018.pdf

Dear Ms Townsend, Clerk to the Board, State Water Resources Board

Attached is my comment letter in PDF text format. Thank you for your attention to this critically important issue.

Clay Knopf 7/26/2018